



Use this guide to learn about:

Flood Insurance Coverage

Ways to prepare for flooding rains

Ways to prepare for hurricane storm surge

Who to contact in Savannah, Chatham County, Garden City, Bloomingdale, and nearby locations.

FLOODING HAPPENS WHERE WE LIVE: BE PREPARED!

As a flat, low-lying coastal region, the natural landscape of our community puts various locations within Savannah and throughout Chatham County at risk for flooding due to rainfall and hurricane storm surge events. Flooding of areas in Chatham

County dates back to 1811 and has happened as recently as Hurricane Irma in September 2018. Since 1948, Chatham County and the surrounding municipalities have flooded more than 17 times damaging more than 1,700 dwellings. These estimates include

Chatham County properties that were flooded from Hurricane Irma’s surge. Properties around Chatham County waterways such as the Wilmington, Vernon, Forest Grove and Ogeechee rivers and Springfield, Casey, Placentia, Pipemakers and Harden canals

have increased vulnerability to flooding during rainfall events and hurricane storm surge. Your City and County governments have invested hundreds of millions of dollars over the past 20 years to lessen the risk of structural flooding in our community

from rain and storm surge. However, given our low-lying geography and close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the risk of flooding will never be eliminated. Through emergency preparedness and responsible environmental actions discussed in this

insert, you can protect your family and property by reducing some causes of flooding during rainfall events and providing financial protection in the event of a catastrophic storm surge event. So, how prepared are you when flooding happens?

A publication jointly presented by:



SAVANNAH



HOW PREPARED ARE YOU?

A Guide to Keep You Above Flood Waters

FLOOD

Prevent Flooding in Your Neighborhood

Residents can help prevent localized flooding by keeping storm drains, ditches, culverts, and gutters free of debris such as yard waste, leaves, trash, and limbs. Simple actions such as raking away debris before heavy

rains can make a big difference in how well the stormwater system functions. Raking or blowing yard debris into the street can contribute to flooding by clogging up the stormwater system. Littering can also cause problems with stormwater drainages. Any type of debris can become entangled in culverts and shallow streambeds and reduce drainage causing the water to back up. Be sure to keep storm drains and drainage ditches on your property free of debris, foliage, and vegetation that would impede the flow of water.



It’s illegal to dump trash, grass clippings, leaves or other materials including chemicals, oil, gasoline or household products into ditches or other drainage systems. If you see illegal dumping, report it to the local public works department or local law enforcement agencies. People caught

dumping can face jail time and/or a fine as outlined in County Code 24-708 or the City’s Code 4-11011. Please refer to the **Community Point of Contacts** table on the flood map for other community code references.

Report Blocked Storm Drains and Illegal Dumping

City residents: Call 311 or City’s App: SAV311
County residents: Call (912) 652-6840
Online: Chatham County Connect App

Be Prepared for the Three Phases of Flooding



Before Flooding

- **Know your flood zone. There are several flood zones in Chatham County. Check out www.SAGIS.org to explore your flood zone or contact your COMMUNITY POINT OF CONTACT to determine your flood zone and the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is for your lot.**

Note: Flood zone determination requests must be in writing and can be faxed to the point of contact in your community.

- Learn the flood and emergency warning systems in our area and

know the safest route to high, safe ground.

Visit www.sagis.org or Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA): www.chathamemergency.org or call (912) 201-4500 to find out about the flood warning system, evacuation zones, and what evacuation route you should use.

- Prepare a family and pet disaster kit. Learn more at: www.ready.gov
- Prepare your home. Learn how to turn off the gas and electricity to your house and do so if flooding is imminent. Protect your home against high winds associated with hurricanes and tropical

storms (install storm shutters, reinforce garage doors, etc.)

- Buy flood insurance. Flood damage is not covered by most homeowner’s insurance. It’s affordable and easy to obtain. Renters can secure flood damage coverage for their personal property. Know what items are not covered and take extra steps to protect them. Coverage is limited to only certain items of property in basement and enclosure areas.
- Run through your emergency plan! Do you have questions or concerns? Evacuation routes and the locations of emergency shelters can be found on www.sagis.org and by calling CEMA at 912-201-4500. Check the “Resources on the Web” and “Contacts” tables inside this publication for more information.

During flooding

Because flood water can rise quickly, be prepared to evacuate before the water level reaches your property.

- Stay informed during a weather event through CEMA updates.
- Follow evacuation orders when issued.
- Move to higher ground if you can do so safely—but DO NOT attempt to walk, drive, or swim through moving water or flooded areas. Just 6 inches of fast moving water can knock a person off their feet and less than 2 feet of swiftly moving water can sweep away heavy cars and trucks.

Remember: turn around, don’t drown. Drowning is the number one cause of flood-related deaths, followed by electrocution.

- If you are caught at home by rising water, move to the second floor or the roof. Take your disaster supply kit with you.
- If evacuation is required, and you can safely do so, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close any gas valves.
- On the road, watch for standing water on the roadways and avoid floodwaters, fallen debris and power lines.

After flooding

Danger does not end when flood water recedes.

- Return home only when authorities, such as CEMA, indicate it is safe to do so.
- Hidden structural damage may make a building unsafe. If unsure of damage, contact your local engineer or your Community Point of Contact.
- Have a professional check your heating, electrical system, and appliances for safety prior to using.
- Don’t use or consume any food or water that was exposed to floodwaters. Floodwaters contain chemicals, sewage, and contaminants that are harmful.
- Dry your house slowly but thoroughly. Should you need to pump out flooded basements, do so slowly to avoid structural damage.

Tips for Protecting Your Property

In the course of a 30-year mortgage, there is a 26% chance you might experience a flood. Take steps to protect your property from flood or hurricane damage:



- Schedule a flood preparation site visit from your community specialist who will assist property owners with issues related to flooding, stormwater drainage and address any site-specific flooding concerns. The service is provided free of charge. Please refer to the Point of Contacts table on the flood map.
- Buy or renew a flood insurance policy before May 1st. Policies often have a 30-day waiting period before going into effect, making it essential to plan ahead for coverage.
- Install backwater valves or plugs for drains, toilets, or other sewer connections to keep floodwater from entering your home. Install a sump pump in the basement to remove seeping and flood waters.
- Keep the stormwater system clean. Make sure ditches and drains on your property are clear of leaves and debris.
- Store materials like sandbags, plywood, lumber and plastic sheeting in case of a serious flooding threat. These materials can help minimize the damage caused not only by flood waters, but also damage by hurricane force winds.
- If flood waters are inevitable, move valuable furniture and electronic items to countertops or to a second level.
- Elevation certificates (EC) of newly constructed or substantially improved buildings and benchmark (BM) locations may be obtained, when requested in writing, to the communities within Chatham County. ECs are downloadable from each community on their Flood webpage. For EC and BM contact in your area, please refer to the Community Point of Contact table.
- Determine if retrofitting your property would be beneficial. Retrofitting means to alter the building to eliminate or reduce flood damage. There are several options to consider: elevation, flood barriers, dry flood proofing, and wet flood proofing. There are several references in the public libraries on retrofitting and additional documents pertaining to floodplain management topics. See the FEMA guide on retrofitting your house against flooding. Visit www.fema.gov for more information. The library at 2002 Bull Street and surrounding community libraries have copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and additional flood protection literature. Contact your Community Point of Contact table for free on site visit.

Stay Informed: Understanding the Flood Warning System

Locally, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) manages the flood warning system. Once CEMA receives a potentially dangerous warning, sirens will be activated as well as the Local Emergency Information Network system which interrupts television and radio programs to give further instructions.

With 95% of Chatham County’s population covered by an emergency warning siren, CEMA can activate individual siren sites in the immediate area to alert individuals who are not near a TV or radio. Information can also be

heard on the NOAA weather radio broadcast at frequency 162.40.

Local evacuation routes can be found on www.sagis.org. For additional information, contact CEMA at 912-201-4500 or visit the website at: www.chathamemergency.org

Flood Warning System: Know Your Terms

Flood Watch
Be on the lookout for flooding

Flood Warning
Flooding is occurring

REGISTER FOR ALERTS

Visit: www.chathamemergency.org and look for CEMA Alerts on the top navigation bar

You can receive CEMA Alerts on your cell phone through text messages, through your email and also on your home phone.

Those registered will receive alerts for severe weather, missing people, hurricane evacuation notices and other emergency notifications. CEMA Alerts are a free service designed to keep Chatham County residents and visitors informed!

Visit the community’s website for additional social media alerts.

City of Savannah

[facebook.com/cityofsavannah](https://www.facebook.com/cityofsavannah)
twitter.com/cityofsavannah
[youtube.com/cityofsavannah](https://www.youtube.com/cityofsavannah)
[instagram.com/cityofsavannah](https://www.instagram.com/cityofsavannah)

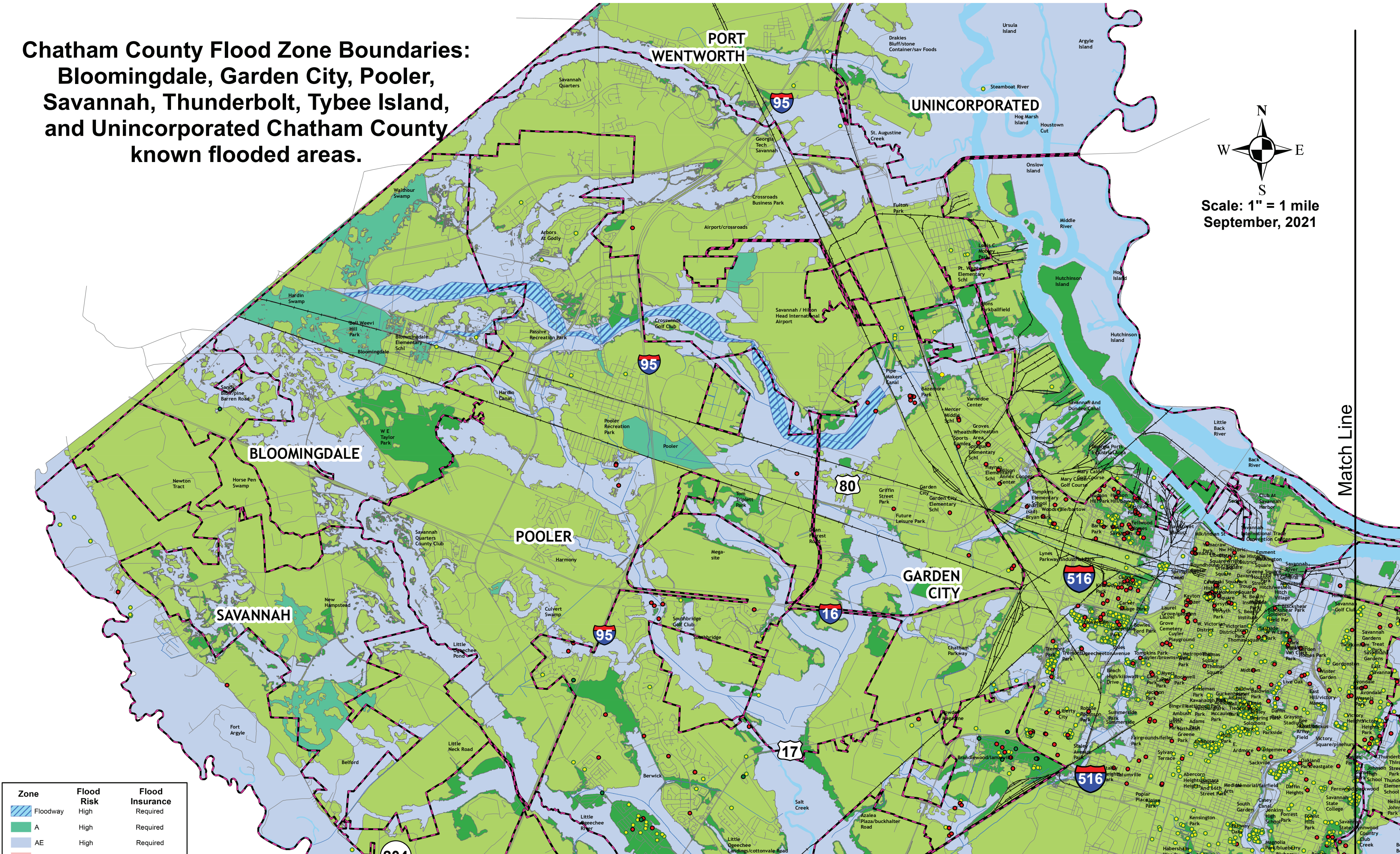


Check the Community Point of Contact table for surrounding communities’ website and social media links.

Chatham County

[facebook.com/ChathamCounty](https://www.facebook.com/ChathamCounty)
twitter.com/ChathamGA
[instagram.com/chathamcountygga](https://www.instagram.com/chathamcountygga)
[linkedin.com/company/chatham-county](https://www.linkedin.com/company/chatham-county)
<https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ga/chatham/chatham-county-2>

Chatham County Flood Zone Boundaries:
Bloomingdale, Garden City, Pooler,
Savannah, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island,
and Unincorporated Chatham County
known flooded areas.



VE

High

Required

X_500

Moderate

Available

X

Low

Available

Unincorporated Chatham County

Border between Municipalities

Flooded Structure Before Hurricanes

Flooded Structure After Hurricanes

LiMWA

Chatham County Canals

DFIRMS DATE: August 16, 2018

COMMUNITY POINT OF CONTACTS

Need assistance? Give us a call and we can help you determine your flood zone, obtain elevation certificates, benchmarks, and assist with additional flood questions.

CHATHAM COUNTY (1)* Michael Blakely, CFM Floodplain Administrator/CRS Program Manager 124 Bull Street, Room 430, Savannah, GA 31401 Office: 912-652-7814 Fax: 912-652-7818 mblakely@chathamcounty.org www.chathamcountyga.gov	Community Codes: Code 24-708 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-652-6840 Report drainage and flooding through the "My Chatham" App downloadable from Google Play or the Apple App Store City Flood Web Resource: http://engineering.chathamcounty.org/Flood-Zones Contact For Site Visits: 912-201-4300 CRS Class Rating: 5 - 25% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
CITY OF SAVANNAH (2)* Tom McDonald, CFM Permitting/Floodplain Manager 5515 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405 Office: 912-651-6530 ext. 1895 Fax: 912-651-6543 tmcdonald@savannahga.gov www.savannahga.gov	Community Codes: 4-11011 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 311 or City's App: SAV311 City Flood Web Resource: https://www.savannahga.gov/936 Contact For Site Visits: 912-651-6530 CRS Class Rating: 5 - 25% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT (3)* Deatre Denion Zoning Administrator 2821 River Drive, Thunderbolt, GA 31404 Office: 912-629-4655 Fax: 912-354-2038 ddenion@thunderboltga.org www.thunderboltga.org	Community Codes: 10-201 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-354-5533 City Flood Web Resource: http://www.thunderboltga.org/Flood-Information Contact For Site Visits: 912-354-5533 CRS Class Rating: 6 - 20% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND (4)* George Shaw Planning & Zoning Department PO Box 2749, Tybee Island, GA 31328 Office: 912-472-5033 or 912-472-5030 Fax: 912-786-9539 gshaw@cityoftybee.org www.cityoftybee.org	Community Codes: Sec. 16-620 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-472-5043 City Flood Web Resource: https://www.cityoftybee.org/297 Contact For Site Visits: 912-472-5033 CRS Class Rating: 5 - 25% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
CITY OF POOLER (5)* Kimberly Classen, CFM Zoning Administrator/CRS Coordinator 100 Highway 80 SW, Pooler, GA 31322 Office: 912-748-7261 kclassen@pooler-ga.gov	Community Codes: Sec. 42-187.2 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-748-4800 City Flood Web Resource: https://www.pooler-ga.gov/index.aspx?page=250 Contact For Site Visits: 912-963-2756 CRS Class Rating: 6 - 20% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
CITY OF GARDEN CITY (6)* Danielle Smith Planning, Zoning, Building Department 100 Central Avenue, Garden City, GA 31408 Office: 912-966-7777 dsmith@gardencity-ga.gov	Community Codes: Sec. 82-212 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-629-2296 City Flood Web Resource: http://www.gardencity-ga.gov/index.aspx?page=250 Contact For Site Visits: 912-963-2756 CRS Class Rating: 6 - 20% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH (7)* Brian Harvey, CFM Development Services 7224 Highway 21, Port Wentworth, GA 31407 Office: 912-999-2084 bharvey@cityofportwentworth.com	
CITY OF BLOOMINGDALE (8)* Denise Sullivan Community Development Clerk City of Bloomingdale P.O. Box 216, Bloomingdale, GA 31302 Office: 912-748-0970 Fax 912-748-1005 dsullivan@bloomingdale-ga.gov	Community Codes: Sec. 78-408 Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-784-0970 City Flood Web Resource: https://www.bloomingdale-ga.gov/copy-of-public-works-1 Contact For Site Visits: 912-748-0268 CRS Class Rating: 8 - 10% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
TOWN OF VERNONBURG (9)* Jimmy Hungerpiller Mayor, Town Of Vernonburg Office: 912-790 7660 jrhunger@hungerpiller.com	

People caught dumping can face jail time and/or fines as outlined in the community codes.

SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS

BRYAN COUNTY Amanda Clement, CFM Community Development Department Office: 912-756-7964 aclement@bryan-county.org	City Flood Web Resource: www.bryancountyga.org/i-want-to/flood-protection Contact For Site Visits: 912-756-3177
EFFINGHAM CO. Teresa Concannon Development Services 601 N. Laurel Street, Springfield, GA 31326 Office: (912) 754-8063 Tconcannon@effinghamcounty.org	Community Codes: Sec. 30-375. - Penalties Contact For Reporting Dumping and Flooding: 912-754-2141 City Flood Web Resource: https://www.effinghamcounty.org/309 Contact For Site Visits: (912) 754-8063 CRS Class Rating: 7 - 15% Policy Premium Discount in SFHA
CITY OF RINCON Jason Stewart Planning and Development Director 912-826-5996 Ext. 113 jstewart@cityofrincon.com	City Flood Web Resource: https://www.cityofrincon.com/FloodInformation.aspx

INSURANCE ADVOCATES

Jeffrey M. Brady, ANFI
JeffBrady@allstate.com
5859 Abercorn St., STE 1, Savannah, GA 31405
Office: 912-356-3815
www.rountreebradyinsurance.com

Lisa Sharrard, CFM ANFI, CPM
PO Box 290666 Columbia SC 29229
Email: lisa@simplyflood.com
Office: (803) 865-4297
www.simplyflood.com

NFIP Flood Insurance Advocate
www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-insurance-advocate

STATE OF GEORGIA and FEMA

STATE OF GEORGIA
Haydn Blaize
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, EPD
Watershed Protection Branch/NonPoint Source Program
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Suite 1152 E, Atlanta, GA 30334
Office: 404-463-1511
Haydn.blaize@dnr.ga.gov

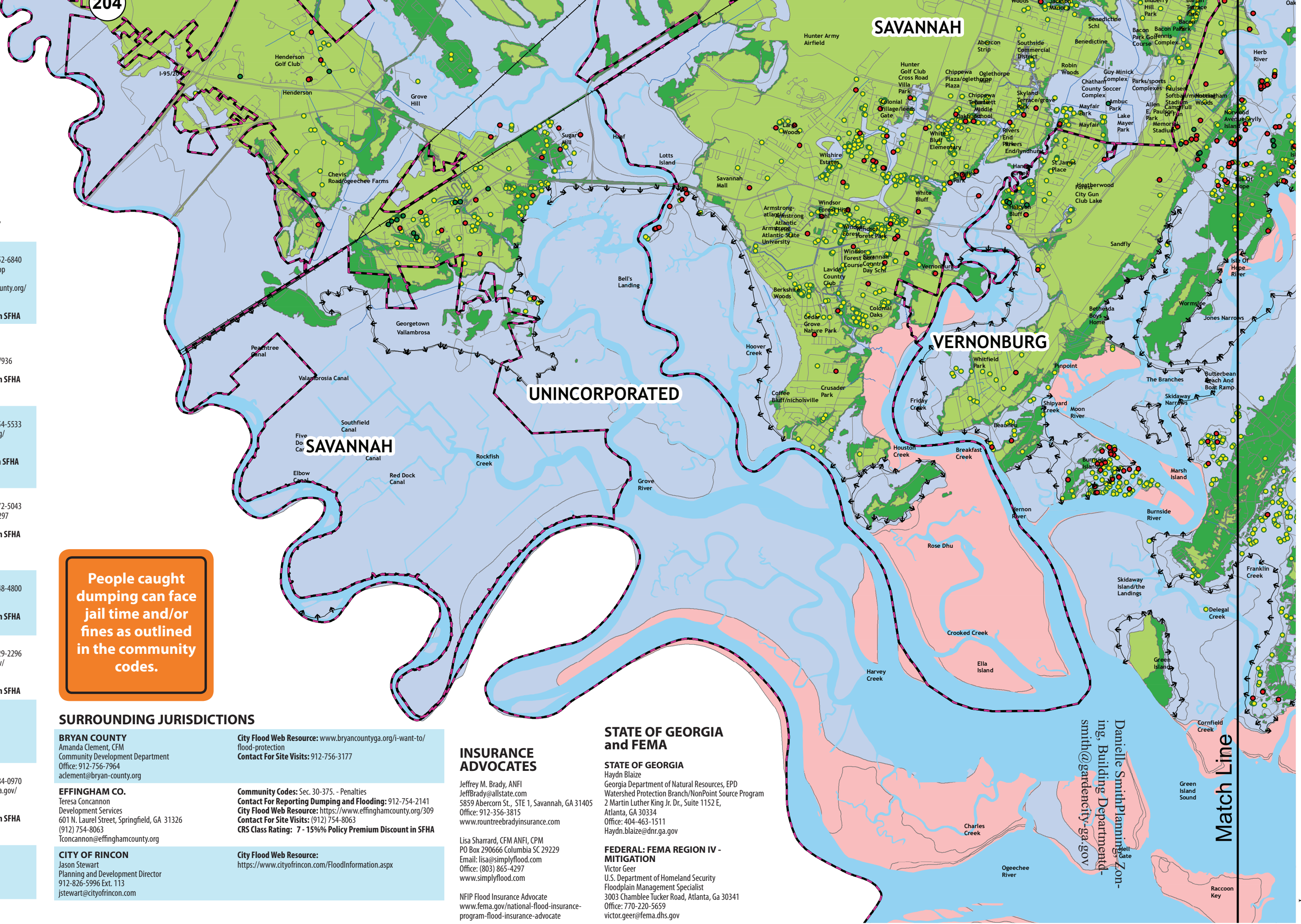
FEDERAL: FEMA REGION IV - MITIGATION
Victor Geer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Floodplain Management Specialist
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, Ga 30341
Office: 770-220-5659
victor.geer@fema.dhs.gov

(*) Jurisdiction's Property Identification Numbers (PIN) begin with this number

Unincorporated Chatham County and the City of Savannah Flood Prone Areas

Review the included map to determine if you are in or near a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). If you need assistance in making this determination or need a Flood Zone Determination Letter based on the current or historical Flood Insurance Rating Map (FIRM) please contact your Community Point of Contact located above on the Community Point of Contact Table.

You can also review flood zone, Letter of Map Amendment and information at www.sagis.org or <https://msc.fema.gov> (FIRMettes). If you would like further information on flooding, flood insurance, Increase Cost of Construction (ICC), retrofitting, storm water or retrofitting site visit, how to pick a contractor, benchmarks, FEMA grants, current and historic FIRMs, Elevation Certificates (EC), letter of map changes, and surveyors for EC contact your Community Point of Contact or visit your municipality's Flood Protection web page.



Flood Insurance Facts

Almost all homeowner’s insurance does NOT cover flood damage. The standard homeowner or commercial insurance policy does not cover damage caused by flooding (rising waters). To protect your property you must buy a separate flood insurance policy.

Flood insurance is required if you buy a house in a designated high-risk flood zone and receive a mortgage loan from a federally regulated or insured lender. Your lender is legally bound to require you to maintain a flood insurance policy to cover the structure alone or cover a combination of the structure and contents.

Renters can buy flood insurance too! Renters can obtain coverage for contents and personal belongings, even if the property owner does not have structural flood insurance coverage on the home.

Flood insurance coverage is NOT IMMEDIATELY ACTIVE. There is normally a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance goes into effect; it is essential to plan ahead. Contact your local insurance agent to get a flood insurance policy.

Chatham County, Savannah, Garden City, Thunderbolt, Bloomingdale, Tybee Island and Pooler work hard to help REDUCE residents’ costs to carry flood insurance. Chatham County and many cities within Chatham County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), participate in the Community Rating System (CRS) program and have high quality flood management programs. Because of these activities, homeowners and renters receive special flood insurance premium discounts. For instance, if you live within the City of Savannah (COS), Tybee Island or Unincorporated Chatham County (UCC), you are eligible for a 25% discount on your flood insurance premiums because the Flood Plain Managers have worked to implement programs and educate the community. The UCC saved 7,598 flood insurance policy holders in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) a total of \$1,520,489 on premiums last year, or an average of \$200 per policy. The COS saved 1,910 SFHA policyholders \$657,924 or an average of \$344 per policy. The average flood insurance premium in Georgia is less than \$310 per year. Contact your insurance agent to determine exact cost. A house has a higher percentage

of flooding than suffered from a fire, yet many homeowners and renters do not complain about carrying fire insurance.

Even those living in low risk areas should invest in flood insurance coverage.

Many times homeowners and renters are misinformed. Flooding can occur outside the high risk area and cause damage in low risk areas. In Savannah, of the reported 1700 flooded structures, 53% of the buildings were in the low risk area. Many home owners in a low-lying coastal region like Chatham County could benefit from flood insurance.

What is Freeboard and how does it benefit me? Freeboard is a safety provision that refers to elevating a structure's lowest level a few feet above predicted flood elevations (generally 1-3 feet). Storm waters can and do rise higher than shown on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Freeboard helps protect buildings from storms larger than those that FIRM are based on, and provides an added margin of safety to address the flood modeling and mapping uncertainties associated with FIRM. Because the risk of flooding is reduced significantly, Chatham County jurisdictions include “Freeboard” language in their flood ordinance.

What is the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA)? The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) protects coastal areas that serve as barriers against wind and tidal forces caused by coastal storms, and serve as habitat for aquatic species. CBRS boundaries are established and mapped by the U.S. Department of Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which only Congress can revise CBRS boundaries. To manage development, limit property damage, and preserve wildlife and natural resources, CBRA restricts Federal financial assistance, including disaster relief assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Robert T. Stafford Act and the NFIP. The NFIP cannot provide flood insurance coverage for structures built or substantially improved after the area is designated as a CBRS unit (initial designations went into effect October 1, 1983). Minimum NFIP floodplain management standards do not prohibit the rebuilding of substantially




damaged buildings in CBRS units. However, such structures must meet the community’s floodplain management regulations, and NFIP coverage is not available for such structures. Lenders should exercise special care with properties in or near these areas. To view maps visit www.fws.gov/CBRA or sagis.org

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and updated FIRMs becomes available as monies are issued from congress or a local government to determine if modifications are needed to area flood zones. Chatham County maps have needed modifications throughout the years to include 2008, 2013 and 2014 editions. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to update FIRMS under the Risk Map program which addresses coastal surge inundation for thirteen counties along the Georgia coast. The newest FIRMS were released August of 2018. You can view the FIRMS on the www.sagis.org - “Find My Flood Zone” map or georgiadfirm.com. Contact your Community Point of Contact listed in the table on the full map page if you have any questions.

Should your property have changed from low-risk to high-risk because of the new FIRM, you will likely be required to protect your building and its contents with flood insurance; especially if you have a mortgage. Flood insurance rates for high- risk areas are higher, but there are ways to save money with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) “Grandfather Rule”. Under NFIP’s Grandfather Rule, Post-FIRM buildings in the Regular Program built in compliance with the floodplain management regulations in effect at the start of construction will continue to have favorable rate treatment even though higher Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or more restrictive, greater risk zone designations result from FIRM revisions. Buildings constructed in compliance with earlier maps or continuously covered by flood insurance stay in their original rate class when maps change or properties are sold. To learn more, visit www.FEMA.Gov or contact your local insurance advocate listed in the Point of Contact table.

FEMA will provide assistance only if a Presidential Major Disaster (PMD) is declared



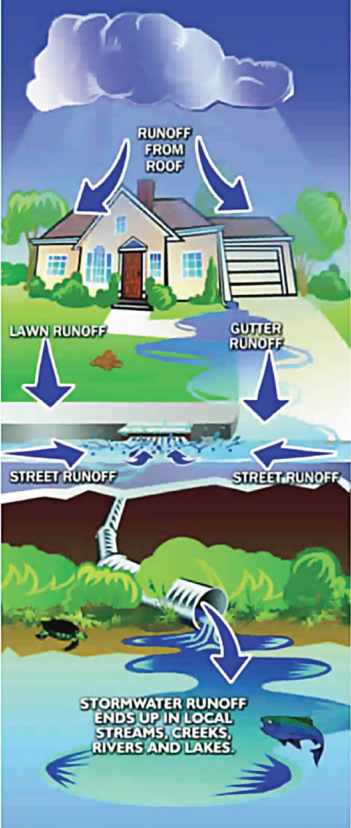
Resources on the Web

Federal Emergency Management Agency	www.fema.gov
Flood Smart	www.floodsmart.gov
Georgia Environmental Protection Division	www.gaepd.org
Georgia Emergency Management Agency	www.gema.ga.gov
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	www.noaa.gov
Georgia Department of Natural Resources	https://gadnr.org
The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension	www.ugaextension.com
Georgia Association of Floodplain Management	https://gafm.clubexpress.com/
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	www.epa.gov
National Wetland Inventory	http://www.fws.gov
Critical Habitat	http://ecos.fws.gov/crithab/
River Gages: USGS:	http://waterdata.usgs.gov
NFIP Insurance Advocate:	www.fema.gov Search “OFIA”

Floodplains Managing Natural Function in Light of Development

What’s a Floodplain?
Floodplains are defined as low-lying areas adjacent to a waterway. Many acres in Chatham County are considered to be floodplains given our flat topography and proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, Savannah River, and other smaller tributaries and tidal creeks. Floodplains are crucial terrestrial habitats that provide fertile soil for plant growth and act like reservoirs, storing excess rainfall and runoff. Floodplains can be natural, like the salt-water marshes lining Highway 80 towards Tybee Island. Floodplains can also be man-made such as green spaces, parks, and some golf courses. Floodplains provide crucial protections and flood control to inland areas in the event of flooding storms and storm surge.

What’s happening on our floodplain?
Maintaining adequate flood control along the coast is vital to a healthy, safe, and productive community as



floodplains make up much of our county lands and offer protection from flood damage in the event of a storm. Beautiful, functioning floodplains are also prime areas for development.


Balancing Buildings with Buffers
Most development in the floodplain includes activities such as grading, placing fill, building a new structure/ addition, or repairing/ remodeling an existing structure. All of these activities require a permit. Development within a floodplain has the potential to impact flood levels due to the modification of pervious surfaces like green spaces, to hard, or impervious spaces such as buildings and roads. If not properly designed, these modifications create flooding issues or make flooding worse. Strict codes must be followed when developing in the floodplain. All new construction and certain types of renovations must adhere to current City and County floodplain development standards. By making wise land use decisions in the development and management of floodplains, beneficial functions can be protected and negative impacts to the

quality of the environment can be reduced. See more information under **Actions Have Consequences**. Additional County and City floodplain requirements may apply. To talk with someone about permit and regulation information within your community, please refer to the Community Point of Contact table.


Report Illegal Development

City residents: Call 311 or City's App: SAV311
County residents: Call Dept of Public Works (912) 652-6840
Online: Chatham County Connect App
Other Areas: See Community Point of Contact table

For more information or to obtain a building permit within Chatham County, contact your building official at the Chatham County Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services at 1117 Eisenhower Drive, or phone them at (912)201-4300. For the City of Savannah, contact the Development Service Department at 5515 Abercorn Street or (912) 651-6530. For additional contacts, please refer to the Community Point of Contacts Table on the flood map.



Estimate Flood Risk Heights



You can estimate the height of the 100 year flooding or finished floor of a building by using www.sagis.org.

Once on the web page, click on the “Layer List” icon. Scroll down to and click on “Elevation and Contours” layer box. You can also click on “Effective Flood Zones” layer box to display the flood zones. When zoomed into the parcel, the contours lines and Flood Zones will appear. If the property is in an AE or VE zone with a Base Flood Elevation (BFE), the difference of the lowest contour value near the building structure and the BFE will be the estimated flood height. For example, a property that has a contour line value of 7 and an flood zone of AE-10 with a BFE of 10, the flood height is three feet, (10-7=3).

To guestimate your required finished floor elevation, use the contour line closest to the building and add the distance from the grade to the finished floor. Using the same lot referenced above, the lot has a contour line of 7 feet and the finished floor measures four feet above the grade making the estimated finished floor at 11 NAVD 1988 (7+4=11). The example also shows the finished floor is one foot above the BFE or projected 100 year flood elevation (11-10=1). You will need to consult with a licensed surveyor to determine the actual elevation of your home.

SAGIS also has other layers such as Wetlands NWI, Elevation Certificates, Annexations, Municipal Boundaries, LOMA, NGS Benchmarks, Limit of Moderate Wave Action LiMWA, Savannah Local Storm Models, Cobra Zones, and DFIRM Panels. For more detail contact your specialist on the Community Point of Contact table.

County Resources

For other Chatham County municipalities contacts, see [Community Point of Contacts on the Flood Zone Boundaries map](#).

Service	Chatham County		City of Savannah	
Stormwater Site Visit	912-652-7800	engineering.chathamcounty.org	912-650-7855	www.savannahga.gov/508/Stormwater-Management
Flood Insurance: Determination & Elevation Certificates	912-652-7814	www.chathamcountyga.gov Michael Blakely	912-651-6530 ext 1895	www.savannahga.gov Tom McDonald
Structural Flood Visit	912-652-7814	Michael Blakely	912-651-6530 ext 1895	Tom McDonald
Clogged Storm Pipe or Ditch	912-652-6840	www.publicworks.chathamcounty.org	311	www.savannahga.gov (search word 311)
Grease Separator Inspection	912-652-7800	engineering.chathamcounty.org	912-651-6620	www.savannahga.gov/FOG ccooper@savannahga.gov
Soil Erosion Guidelines	912-652-7800	engineering.chathamcounty.org	912-651-6530	www.savannahga.gov/index.aspx?NID=375
Chatham County Emergency Management (CEMA)	912-201-4500	www.chathamemergency.org	912-201-4500	www.chathamemergency.org
Stormwater Quality	912-652-7800	www.engineering.chathamcounty.org https://www.thempc.org/Comprehensive/Natresc#gsc.tab=0 www.savannahga.gov	912-651-2221	Laura Walker lwalker@savannahga.gov www.savannahga.gov/stormwater
Septic Tanks (Health Depart.)	912-356-2441	www.gachd.org	912-356-2441	www.savannahga.gov/index.aspx?nid=1801
Recycling Center	912-652-6856	recycling.chathamcountyga.gov	912-652-6856	www.savannahga.gov
Watering Restrictions	912-651-2221	www.savannahga.gov	912-651-2221	www.savannahga.gov
Water Wise Landscaping (Xeriscape)	912-652-7981	www.extension.uga.edu	912-651-2221	Laura Walker lwalker@savannahga.gov
Water Resources Education & Tours	912-651-2221		912-651-2221	Laura Walker, lwalker@savannahga.gov www.savannahga.gov/watervideos
Stormwater Education & Storm Drain Tile Information	912-652-7833	Angela Bliss acbliss@chathamcounty.org http://engineering.chathamcounty.org/Stormwater/About	912-651-2221	Laura Walker lwalker@savannahga.gov www.savannahga.gov/stormwater





Like to See More Tide Gauges in Our Community?

The Smart Sea Level Sensor project is a partnership between Chatham Emergency Management Agency officials, City of Savannah officials, and Georgia Tech scientists and engineers who are working together to install a network of internet-enabled sea level sensors across Chatham County. The real-time data on coastal flooding will be used for emergency planning and response (and fishing too).

Our goal is to provide real-time information about water levels across Chatham County to aid in emergency planning and response during episodes of flooding associated with storms, king tides and other environmental events. The sea level data also provides a unique and important dataset to aid scientists, engineers, and regional planners in qualifying the short and long-term risks associated with continued sea level rise.

For more information about smart sea level sensors in Chatham County visit: <https://www.sealevelsensors.org/>

Actions have consequences

IF YOU LEAVE SOMETHING ON THE GROUND, IT WILL END UP IN OUR WATER.

Most people aren't aware that the water entering storm drains is NOT treated at a treatment plant. It flows directly into our streams, rivers and marshes. Here's how your actions could affect the environment.

- 1

Putting off **septic tank maintenance** and private lateral inspections...



...can lead to closed beaches.
- 2

Leaving **animal waste** in yards, parks or on sidewalks...



...can close local oyster, clam and mussel beds to harvesting.
- 3

Applying **fertilizers** to your lawn incorrectly...



...can kill aquatic life, such as manatees, crab, fish and shrimp.
- 4

Leaving **litter** on the ground...



...can block drains and also cause flooding of streets and properties.



PROPER DISPOSAL OF UNUSED PAINT IS IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT!

- ✓ Different kinds of paint require different disposal. Always follow the correct disposal instructions for the kind of paint you have.
- ✗ Never pour paint down household or storm drains.
- ✗ Never put liquid paint in the trash.

LEARN MORE & FIND A PAINT DISPOSAL GUIDE AT WWW.912PAINT.COM

Chatham County residents
MYCHATHAM App

REPORT SPILLS OR DELIBERATE DUMPING

City of Savannah residents
CALL 311





Don't Clog Your Pipes & Keep Our Waterways Safe!



For more information on the proper method of washing out paint brushes and disposal of oil and latex paints, visit the Chatham County Education Center or the City of Savannah websites and search "PAINT"

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR LATEX PAINT – USE IT! DRY IT! PASS IT ON!

- USE IT:** purchase only amount needed to complete the project.
- DRY IT:** use cat litter, sawdust, sand or "waste paint hardeners" prior to disposing of the paint
- PASS IT ON:** Donate extra to organizations to be reused.

REMEMBER: ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

VOLUNTEER! Adopt-A-Drain

Adopt A Drain SAVANNAH



drainsav.org

Keeping storm drains clear is important for two big reasons here in the Lowcountry:

1. Preventing street flooding: Storm drains are designed to quickly move water off the street. A clogged drain can cause water to pool and flood our streets.
2. Protecting water quality: Pollutants left on the ground, like bacteria-laden pet feces or plastics and Styrofoam in litter, are swept into storm drains with rain. These pollutants then end up passing through untreated to our local waterways, ultimately impacting our water quality. Even organic materials like grass clippings and leaves can degrade water quality.



HELP WANTED: Residents can now play an active role in preventing street flooding and protecting our water quality by adopting a storm drain and or applying storm drain marking tiles!

As a storm drain adopter, your job is to make sure leaves, limbs, litter, and other debris is cleared away from the drain you've adopted. Also, report oils from driveways, fertilizers, and street litter that washes into a drain. Drain marking volunteers help by gluing the tiles to drainage structures.

To adopt your own storm drain or install marking tiles within City of Savannah, visit www.drainsav.org or within Chatham County, visit the www.engineering.chathamcounty.org/Stormwater/About or email acbliss@chathamcounty.org.

Where's Your Watershed?

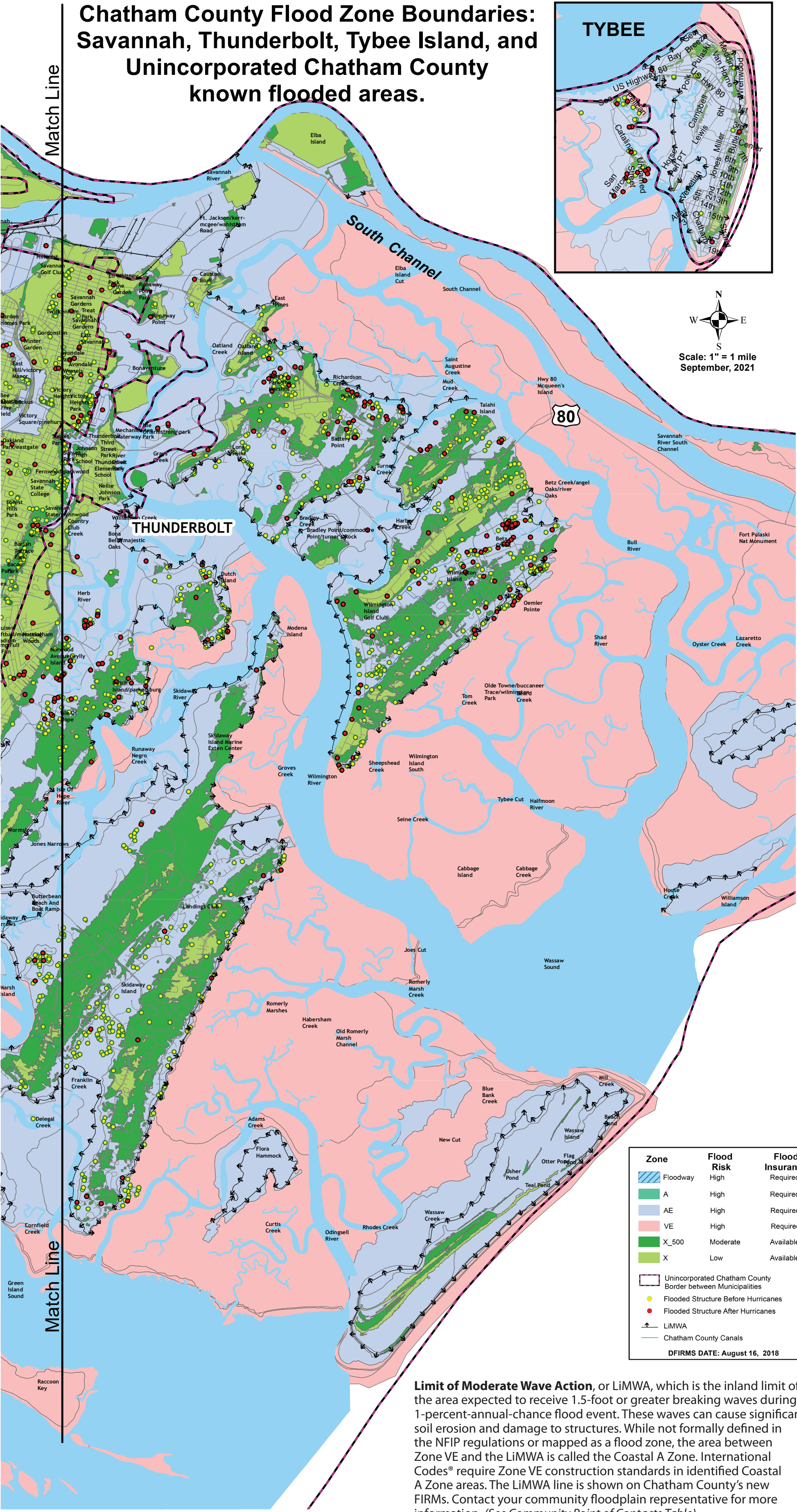


When rain falls in Savannah and Chatham County, it goes one of two places. Rainwater either flows to the Savannah River or the Ogeechee River. Did you know that most of the City of Savannah and Chatham County lie within the Ogeechee River Watershed? The City and the Ogeechee Riverkeeper recently began installing signs that inform citizens of our close connections between the land and these important rivers. In our watersheds, each storm drain, ditch, and canal leads to the Savannah River, Ogeechee River, and the Atlantic Ocean.

For more information on watersheds, go to ogeecheeriverkeeper.org

Let's all do our part! It is easy to help our waterways stay clean and healthy for everyone.

Chatham County Flood Zone Boundaries: Savannah, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, and Unincorporated Chatham County known flooded areas.



Limit of Moderate Wave Action, or LiMWA, which is the inland limit of the area expected to receive 1.5-foot or greater breaking waves during a 1-percent-annual-chance flood event. These waves can cause significant soil erosion and damage to structures. While not formally defined in the NFIP regulations or mapped as a flood zone, the area between Zone VE and the LiMWA is called the Coastal A Zone. International Codes® require Zone VE construction standards in identified Coastal A Zone areas. The LiMWA line is shown on Chatham County's new FIRMs. Contact your community floodplain representative for more information. (See Community Point of Contacts Table)